

2 Timothy 3 - Apostasy in the Last Days; Characteristics of False Teachers; Conduct in the Last Days

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2 Timothy 3

III. Faithful endurance in the midst of coming apostasy (2 Tim 3:1—4:8)

- (1) Characteristics of the apostasy (3:1-9)
 - (A) General description of the apostasy (3:1)
- 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
- 1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
- 1 You must realize, however, that in the last days difficult times will come.
- 1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

Apostasy refers to a departure from known or previously embraced truth. The subject of apostasy has little to do with the condition of the unsaved world, which has always rejected divine truth and therefore has nothing from which to depart. Rather, apostasy pertains to the spiritual temperature within God's church.

- (B) Characteristics of the apostates (3:2-7)

18 Specific Indicators of the Last Days

2 For people will be **loversofself, loversofmoney**, not to dispute about words, **arrogant, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy**,

2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, **boastful**, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

- "...lovers of self" - *philautoi*, self-lovers, self-centered; narcissistic
- "...lovers of money" - *philargyroi*, covetous (1 Tim 3:3,8; 6:10)
- "...boastful [NASB95]" - *alazones*, swaggerers; proud; promoters of their own importance
- "...arrogant" - *hyperephanoi*, haughty, proud; arrogant in attitude
- "...slanderers" - *blasphemoi*, revilers, blasphemers, abusive toward others
- "...disobedient to parents" - unresponsive to parental discipline
- Attacking God's definition of family is a primary part of Satan's core program
- "...ungrateful" - *acharistoi*, unthankful, selfish; uncourteous
- "...unholy" - *anosioi*, profane; unholy, impure
- They are against God in their conversation and manner of life

3 **unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,**

3 unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good,

3 unfeeling, uncooperative, slanderous, degenerate, brutal, hateful of what is good,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

- "unloving" - *astorgoi*, heartless, unloving, callous, hateful
- It means having abnormal relationships
- The sin that warranted the destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah was not homosexuality, but rather than acceptance and promotion of homosexuality being accepted as normal
- "Humanity sinks to its lowest level when it accepts homosexuality." [J.V. McGee]
- "...irreconcilable" - *aspondoi*, unforgiving, trucebreaker; your word is no longer your bond
- "...malicious gossips" - *diaboloi*, slanderers; speaking with malicious gossip
- Certainly characteristic of our times, especially in the media, but it is prevalent even *within the Body!*
- "...without self-control" - *akrateis*, without self-control or self-restraint
- "...brutal" - *anemeroi*, savage, untamed, uncivilized

- Our streets and schools are unsafe, even in daytime
- "...haters of good" - *aphilagathoi*, antagonistic of whatever is "good"

4 **treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,**

4 treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

4 traitors, reckless, conceited, and lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God.

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

- "treacherous" - *prodotai*, disposed toward betrayal; traitors

- "...reckless" - *propeteis*, headstrong

- "...conceited" - *tetyphomenoi*, blinded by pride, self-deluded

- "...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God" - *philedonoi*, devoted to personal pleasure rather than to God

5 holding to a **form of godliness** although they have denied its **power; avoid such people** as these.

5 holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.

5 They will hold to an outward form of godliness but deny its power. Stay away from such people.

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

6 For among them are those who slip into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

6 For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses,

6 For some of these men go into homes and deceive foolish women who are burdened with sins and swayed by all kinds of desires.

6 For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

7 always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

7 These women are always studying but are never able to arrive at a full knowledge of the truth.

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

(C) Illustration of Jannes and Jambres (3:8)

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, worthless in regard to the faith.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these *men* also oppose the truth, men of depraved mind, rejected in regard to the faith.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men oppose the truth. They are depraved in mind and their faith is a counterfeit.

8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

(D) Conclusion: apostates are known by their works (3:9)

9 But they will not make further progress; for their foolishness will be obvious to all, just as was that also of Jannes and Jambres.

9 But they will not make further progress; for their folly will be obvious to all, just as Jannes's and Jambres's folly was also.

9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those two men, their stupidity will be plain to everyone.

9 But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.

(2) Proper conduct in the midst of the apostasy (3:10—4:8)

(A) Imitate Paul's example in nine ways (3:10-13)

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

10 Now you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance,

10 But you have observed my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my endurance,

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

11 persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

11 persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium *and* at Lystra; what persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me!

11 and how I was persecuted and suffered in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured! Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them.

11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

12 Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

12 Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

12 Indeed, all who want to live a godly life in union with the Messiah Jesus will be persecuted.

12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

13 But evil people and impostors will proceed *from bad to worse*, deceiving and being deceived.

13 But evil men and impostors will proceed *from bad to worse*, deceiving and being deceived.

13 But evil people and impostors will go from bad to worse as they deceive others and are themselves deceived.

13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

(B) Reasons for continuing in and preaching the word (3:14—4:8)

(a) The effect of the word on Paul (3:14)

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and **become convinced of**, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*,

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and found to be true, because you know from whom you learned it.

14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

(b) The effect of the word on salvation (3:15)

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

15 From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures that are able to give you the wisdom you need for salvation through faith in the Messiah Jesus.

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

(c) The divine origin of the word (3:16a)

(d) The effect of the word on sanctification (3:16b)

16 **All Scripture** is **inspired** by God and **beneficial** for **teaching**, for **rebuke**, for **correction**, for **training** in righteousness;

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

- "All" - not just the part we understand or agree with. It doesn't just "contain" the Word of God; that would put man in the role of an editor, selecting that which he agrees with.

- "...Scripture" - *graphe*, the words, the writings, the original autographs; Scripture as a whole is in view

- The Greeks used *graphe* to refer to any piece of writing, but the NT writers used it solely of Holy Scripture

- When Paul wrote this statement, the OT was the primary inspired writings (the LXX), however Christians in the early church recognized some NT books as inspired (Cf. 2 Peter 3:16)

- "...inspired" - "God-breathed"

- "...beneficial" - useful, profitable; thus, Timothy should use it in his ministry

- "...teaching" - doctrine, causing others to understand God's truth; what *is* right

- "...rebuke" - conviction of error when there has been deviation from God's truth; what is *not* right

- "...correction" - how to return from rebuke; how to get right

- "...training" - instruction, discipline; thinking and acting in accordance with God's will

(e) The equipping function of the word (3:17)

17 so that the man *or woman* of God may be fully capable, equipped for **everygoodwork**.

17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

17 so that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good action.

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.